

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 14-17 and 20-23 were pending.

Claims 9 and 20 are cancelled.

Claim 8 is original.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12, 14-17 and 21-23 are as previously presented.

The application contains claim 1-8, 11, 12 and 14-17 and 21-23.

Rejections

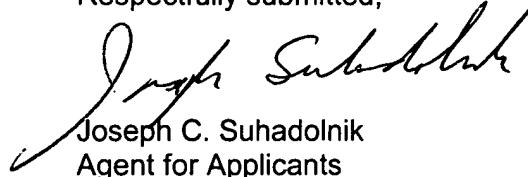
Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP 09-071417 which discloses a silica flake with a thickness of 0.1- 1 micron and an aspect ratio of 5-150.

Claims 9 and 20 are cancelled.

The Examiner has not entered Applicants previous reply in part because the Examiner believes that the amendments therein in may constituted new matter. Applicants disagree but have decided to cancel claims 9 and 20 and pursue the material therein in a subsequent filing.

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the amendments above, all rejections are overcome and kindly ask that all rejections be withdrawn and that the patent issue with previously allowed claims 1-8, 11, 12, 14-17 and 21-23. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph C. Suhadolnik
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 56,880
filed under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation
Patent Department
540 White Plains Road
P.O. Box 2005
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005
Tel. (914) 785-2973
Fax (914) 785-7102